

1 In the Claims:

2 Please cancel claims 1-4, 6, 7, 13 and 15 without prejudice, and please amend
3 claims 5, 8, 9, 14, 19 and 20, and please add new claims 21-27, as indicated in the
4 following claims list:

5 Claims 1-4 (canceled).

6 Claim 5 (currently amended). A data storage~~The apparatus of claim 4~~, comprising:
7 a disk cartridge comprising a cartridge shell and a hard disk operably stored
8 therein;

9 a host device; and,
10 a docking device in communicative linkage with the host device, and configured
11 to temporarily receive the disk cartridge, wherein the disk cartridge is thereby
12 communicatively linked with the host device, and wherein the hard disk is an optical disk.

13 Claims 6-7 (canceled).

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1 Claim 8 (currently amended). ~~A~~The storage apparatus of claim 7, and further
2 comprising:

3 a host device;

4 a disk cartridge comprising:

5 a cartridge shell;

6 a hard disk operably supported within the cartridge shell; and,

7 a cartridge interface mounted on the cartridge shell;

8 a docking device comprising:

9 a receptacle which is defined in the docking device, and which is
10 configured to supportably receive the disk cartridge therein; and,

11 a docking interface which is supported on the docking device, and which is
12 configured, in conjunction with the cartridge interface, to communicatively link the
13 disk cartridge with the host device while the disk cartridge is supported within the
14 receptacle;

15 a tape cartridge; and,

16 a tape drive which is configured to supportably receive the tape cartridge therein;

17 and,

18 a read/write device which is supported on the tape drive and which is further
19 configured to perform read/write operations on the tape cartridge while the tape cartridge
20 is supported in the tape drive.

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1 Claim 9 (currently amended). ~~A~~The storage apparatus of claim 7, and further
2 comprising:

3 a host device;

4 a disk cartridge comprising:

5 a cartridge shell;

6 a hard disk operably supported within the cartridge shell; and,

7 a cartridge interface mounted on the cartridge shell;

8 a docking device comprising:

9 a receptacle which is defined in the docking device, and which is
10 configured to supportably receive the disk cartridge therein; and,

11 a docking interface which is supported on the docking device, and which is
12 configured, in conjunction with the cartridge interface, to communicatively link the
13 disk cartridge with the host device while the disk cartridge is supported within the
14 receptacle;

15 a tape cartridge, wherein the tape cartridge and the disk cartridge adhere to a
16 common cartridge form factor; and,

17 a read/write device which is supported on the docking device and which is
18 configured to perform read/write operations on the tape cartridge, wherein:

19 the receptacle is configured to supportably receive the tape cartridge
20 therein; and,

21 the read/write device is integrally incorporated into the docking device,
22 and thereby configured to perform read/write operations on the tape cartridge
23 while the tape cartridge is supported in the receptacle.

24 Claim 10 (original). The data storage apparatus of claim 8, and further comprising a
25 storage support which is configured to isolatively store the tape cartridge and the disk
cartridge.

Claim 11 (original). The data storage apparatus of claim 10, and further comprising an
automated cartridge handling device which is configured to selectively move the tape
cartridge between the storage support and the tape drive, and which is further
configured to selectively move the disk cartridge between the storage support and the
docking device.

1 Claim 12 (original). The data storage apparatus of claim 9, and further comprising:
2 a storage support which is configured to isolatively store the tape cartridge and
3 the disk cartridge; and,
4 an automatic cartridge handling device which is configured to selectively move
5 the tape cartridge and the disk cartridge between the storage support and the docking
6 device.

7 Claim 13 (canceled).

8 Claim 14 (currently amended). ~~A~~The storage apparatus of claim 13, and further
9 comprising:

10 a host device;

11 a disk cartridge comprising:

12 a cartridge shell;

13 a hard disk operably supported within the cartridge shell; and,

14 a cartridge interface mounted on the cartridge shell;

15 a docking device comprising:

16 a receptacle which is defined in the docking device, and which is
17 configured to supportably receive the disk cartridge therein; and,

18 a docking interface which is supported on the docking device, and which is
19 configured, in conjunction with the cartridge interface, to communicatively link the
20 disk cartridge with the host device while the disk cartridge is supported within the
21 receptacle; and wherein the wireless data transmission device is cartridge
22 interface and the docking interface are configured to utilize light in the
23 transmission of data signals between the disk cartridge and the host
24 device interface and the docking interface.

25 Claim 15 (canceled).

1 Claim 16 (original). A data storage method, comprising:

2 providing a hard disk memory medium and a host device;
3 storing the hard disk memory medium in a communicatively isolated condition;
4 communicatively linking the hard disk memory medium to the host device;
5 writing data from the host device to the hard disk memory medium; and,
6 restoring the hard disk memory medium to a communicatively isolated condition.

7 Claim 17 (currently amended). The method of claim 16, and further comprising:

8 communicatively re-linking the hard disk memory medium to the host device;
9 reading data from the hard disk memory ~~device~~ medium to the host device; and,
10 restoring the hard disk memory medium to a communicatively isolated condition.

11 Claim 18 (original). The method of claim 16, and wherein the hard disk memory medium
12 forms a portion of the disk cartridge.

13 Claim 19 (currently amended). The method of claim 18, and further comprising
14 providing a docking device, wherein communicatively linking the hard disk memory
15 medium is communicatively linked to the host device by placement of comprises placing
16 the disk cartridge into thea docking device.

17 Claim 20 (currently amended). The method of claim 19, and wherein placing the disk
18 cartridge is placed into the docking device comprises providing by an automatic cartridge
19 handling device, wherein the disk cartridge is automatically placed into the docking
20 device by the automatic cartridge handling device.

1 Claim 21 (new). A data storage device comprising a docking device with a receptacle
2 defined thereon, wherein:

3 the docking device is configured to communicate with a host device; and,
4 the docking device comprises:

5 a docking interface supported by the docking device and located
6 substantially within the receptacle, thereby enabling communicative linkage of the
7 host device with a disk cartridge that is placed into the receptacle; and,

8 a tape read/write device supported by the docking device and located
9 substantially within the receptacle, thereby enabling communicative linkage of the
10 hose device with a tape cartridge that is placed into the receptacle.

11 Claim 22 (new). The apparatus of claim 21, and further comprising an automatic
12 cartridge handling system configured to selectively place into the receptacle, and
13 remove from the receptacle, disk cartridges and tape cartridges.

14 Claim 23 (new). The apparatus of claim 21, and further comprising:

15 a host device communicatively linked with the docking device;

16 at least one disk cartridge configured to be placed into the receptacle, wherein
17 communicative linkage of the disk cartridge with the host device is thereby established;
18 and,

19 at least one tape cartridge configured to be placed into the receptacle, wherein
20 communicative linkage of the tape cartridge with the host device is thereby established.

21 Claim 24 (new). The apparatus of claim 23, and wherein the at least one disk cartridge
22 and the at least one tape cartridge adhere to a common cartridge form factor.

23 Claim 25 (new). The apparatus of claim 24, and wherein the common cartridge form
24 factor is a tape cartridge form factor.

25 Claim 26 (new). The apparatus of claim 25, and wherein the tape cartridge form factor is
selected from the group comprising: Digital Audio Tape form factor; Digital Data Tape
form factor; Digital Linear Tape form factor; and Linear Tape Open form factor.

1 Claim 27 (new). A data storage method, comprising:
2 providing a docking device which defines therein a receptacle;
3 providing a disk cartridge and a tape cartridge;
4 storing the disk cartridge and the tape cartridge in respective communicatively
5 isolated conditions;
6 placing the disk cartridge into the receptacle;
7 performing a read/write operation on the disk cartridge in response to placing the
8 disk cartridge into the receptacle;
9 removing the disk cartridge from the receptacle;
10 restoring the disk cartridge to a communicatively isolated condition;
11 placing the tape cartridge into the receptacle;
12 performing a read/write operation on the disk cartridge in response to placing the
13 tape cartridge into the receptacle; and,
14 restoring the tape cartridge to a communicatively isolated condition.
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(End of Preliminary Amendment.)

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